

Application No.: 10/534,771

2003P13354WOUS
Walbracht et al.**REMARKS*****Claim Status***

After entry of this Amendment, Claims 21, 23, 24 and 31 – 35 are pending. By this Amendment, Claim 21 is amended, and Claim 30 is cancelled. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objects to Claim 30 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that Claim 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 30 depends from independent Claim 21. Claim 21 is amended, as set forth in the above listing of claims, to include the limitations of Claim 30. Claim 30 is cancelled. Amended Claim 21 is, therefore, believed to be allowable.

Claims 23, 24 and 31 – 35 depend from amended Claim 21. Claims 23, 24 and 31 – 35 are, therefore, believed to be allowable as well.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects Claims 21, 23 and 31 – 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nojima (U.S. Patent No. 4,772,856) in view of Dent (U.S. Patent No. 6,889,034). Further, the Examiner rejects Claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nojima as modified by Dent in view of Schell (U.S. Patent No. 6,751,265).

By this Amendment, Claim 21 is amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 30. Amended Claim 21 is, therefore, believed to be allowable, as discussed above.

Claims 23, 24 and 31 – 35 depend from amended Claim 21. For that reason and because of the additional inventive features recited in these claims, Claims 23, 24 and 31 – 35 are believed to be allowable as well. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass Claims 21, 23, 24 and 31 – 35 to allowance.

CONCLUSION

The present response is intended to correspond with the Revised Amendment Format. Should any part of the present response not be in full compliance with the

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requirements of the Revised Amendment Format, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned for immediate correction.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is herewith respectfully requested.

Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' attorney in order to resolve such issues promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502464 referencing attorney docket number 2003P13354WOUS.

Date: 6/21/07


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